

Status Summary

Licensing and Certification Business Process Improvement Project

Objective: To realize an efficiency of at least a 10% savings (i.e., approximately 8 FTE in FY 2004).

Desired Outcome: Achieve maximum efficiency gains without reducing safety.

Original Schedule: July 2002-December 2002: Planning and Assessment Steps
December 2002-March 2003: Improvement Step
March 2003-September 2003: Implementation and Measurement Steps

Revised Schedule: October 2002-September 2003: Planning and Assessment Steps
October 2003 → FY 04: Improvement Step
FY-04: Implementation and Measurement Steps

Success (Output)

Metric: Specific output performance measures will be developed as part of the Implementation Step.

Comments: The Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) has re-evaluated the approach to be used for achieving our efficiency and effectiveness goals in the Licensing and Certification area.

The emphasis on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of programs within NMSS predates the establishment of the BPI initiative. As a result, NMSS recognizes that several efficiencies occurred prior to the beginning of the formal Licensing BPI process. For example, a number of program efficiencies and reductions were made in Fuel Cycles Licensing and Inspection to provide for fact-of-life high priority increases. This effort, when combined with new initiatives, will result in an efficiency of about 8 FTE for 2004, 6 FTE for FY 2005 and 6 FTE for 2006. In addition, a decreased labor rate for the review of Integrated Safety Analyses for fuel facilities will result in the realization of additional efficiencies of approximately 3 FTE in FY 2004, 2 FTE in FY 2005 and 2 FTE in FY 2006, for an overall efficiency gain of 11 FTE for FY 2004, 8 FTE for FY 2005 and 8 FTE for FY 2006.

The goal of the Licensing BPI was to achieve at least a 10 percent savings (i.e., 10 percent of the approximately 87.3 FTE in licensing, or 8.7 FTE). The efficiency gains realized in the Fuel Facilities Licensing and Inspection area well exceed the NMSS office-wide goal established for the Licensing BPI initiative (i.e., 8 FTE in FY 2004). These gains alone essentially meet the goal of the Licensing BPI.

NMSS management recognizes the need for continued improvement and plans to pursue future efficiency gains into FY 2004 and beyond. NMSS management determined that most of the opportunities for achieving gains in efficiencies and effectiveness will be made in the technical components of activities, (i.e., licensing, inspection, rulemaking) with minimal efficiencies anticipated by changes in the administrative components.

Therefore, NMSS intends to substantially reduce its contractor support for the administrative portion of this BPI effort. However, the BPI contractor will continue to contribute to process improvements by assisting in the development of process maps which will provide management with a better understanding of the inter relationships of each step in the activity. The creation of process maps will be funded with existing available resources.

The NMSS Risk Task Group (RTG) will be participating in the BPI activities using risk information. RTG will work with the Divisions that are performing the analyses and developing the recommendations to streamline licensing, inspection and rulemaking processes. In addition, the RTG will be working with the Divisions to identify modifications to the technical aspects of the regulatory programs (e.g., licensing and inspection) through the use of risk information. This work will support the NMSS initiative to take a broader look at all of the waste and materials arena activities in order to determine how resources can be directed more effectively within NMSS to those activities of highest risk and safety significance.

Budget Impact:

Resources originally budgeted for the BPI effort for fiscal years FY04 through FY06 included 14 FTE, and \$700K for contractor support. It is projected that the remainder of this project will require a maximum of 2 FTE (approximately 0.5 FTE for each of the four technical divisions in NMSS) and 100K in contractor support funding (\$25K for each technical division in NMSS), for a savings of 12 FTE and \$600K in budgeted contractor support.